

REMARKS

Claims 49, 73-75 have been canceled. The claims remaining in the application are 1-9, 11-27, 29-48, and 50-72.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claim 75 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mihara (U.S. 6,517,211) and further in view of Shimonura et al. (U.S. 6,141,151). This rejection is respectfully traversed, however, claim 75 has been canceled.

Double Patenting

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9, 11-27, 29-48, 50-72, and 75 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-74 of U.S. Patent No. 6,676,260 (Cobb et al.) This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Cobb et al. and the present application are commonly-assigned. A Terminal Disclaimer for U.S. Patent No. 6,676,260 is attached herewith.

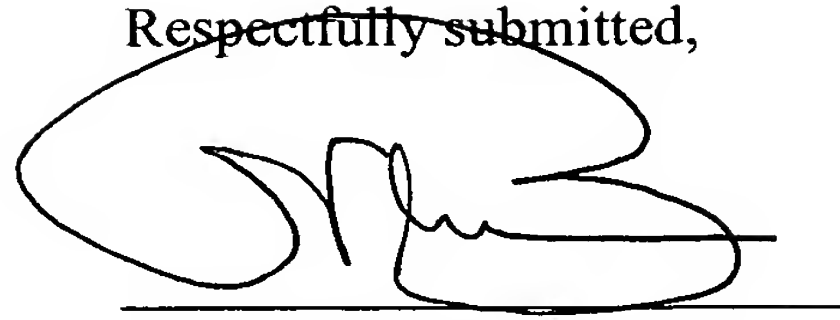
CONCLUSION

Since claim 75 has been canceled and a Terminal Disclaimer has been submitted, it is believed that the remaining claims are allowable. Dependent claims not specifically addressed add additional limitations to the independent claims, which have been distinguished from the prior art and are therefore also patentable.

In conclusion, none of the prior art cited by the Examiner discloses the limitations of the claims of the present invention, either individually or in combination. Therefore, it is believed that the claims are allowable.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that additional modifications to the claims are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below for a telephone interview and Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "N. A. Blish", written over a horizontal line.

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Enclosure: Terminal Disclaimer